What Chronic Homelessness Looks Like in Portland

These statistics are drawn from the 2017 Point in Time Count in Portland/Multnomah County.

Population Statistics

Overall, approximately **31% of the area’s homeless population is considered chronic**. Among major West Coast cities, Los Angeles has the highest rate of chronic homelessness at 34%. Nationally, the chronic homelessness rate is 24%.

A significant majority (71%) of chronically homeless people remain **unsheltered**, but that is down from almost 85% in 2015.

Nearly all chronically homeless people are adults. Of these, men make up just over two-thirds (66.6%), while **women account for 30.3%**.

Slightly under two-fifths (33.9%) of all **veterans** in the PIT count were chronically homeless. This is a drop of 10.1% from 2015.

Percentages Race/Ethnicity of Chronically Homeless

![Pie chart showing percentages of chronically homeless by race/ethnicity]

- **American Indian/Alaska Native**: 14.3%
- **Asian**: 1%
- **Black/African American**: 10%
- **Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander**: 2.4%
- **Hispanic/Latino**: 7.7%
- **White**: 64%

Disabilities Statistics

A sizable majority (71.6%) of the overall unsheltered population self-reported as having one or more disabling conditions, including:

- Mental illness (44.8%)
- Physical disabilities (38.0%)
- Substance abuse disorders (37.5%)
- Chronic health conditions (26.3%)

**Note:** As information about disabilities within the chronically homeless population is not available, these statistics pertain to the overall unsheltered population (of which 55% were chronically homeless).